



IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU!

(What connection do you think the following illustration has with the Bible texts on the other page?)

"Guess what I have," Ahmad said, opening his backpack and showing his two friends a magazine they were sure to get in trouble for. Their eyes got big. "Meet me in my garage after school." They could hardly wait. This was beginning to be a habit—the sneaking around, the secret meetings, and the full color magazines.

Some of the boys were so captivated, they told their friends. Word continued to seep out and more and more boys would join Ahmad in his garage to take a peak. Nevertheless, they were careful about who they told, because they knew that they could get in serious trouble for looking at such a thing.

One time, someone was waiting for Ahmad in his garage, but he didn't know it. As usual, the boys came over and they all gathered around to see the magazine.

"Aha! You are all caught! You know you should not have this. And you definitely should not be reading it. You are all going to jail!" The officer gathered them together, and shoved the boys into a police van. They were driven downtown for questioning. One by one, they were interrogated.

"Where did he get the magazine from? Why were you reading such trash? Why did you tell others about it? Don't you know this stuff is against the law?"

One by one, they were questioned, but nobody said a word. Their parents showed up. They were angry and ashamed. The boys were shuffled into a cell with thieves and murderers to scare them. They were told they would be going on trial and they could spend the rest of their lives in jail if they didn't start talking. The boys were unmoved.

Ahmad's mother could not understand why they would give their lives away for a silly magazine. "It's not a silly magazine mother. It has power. It talks about God and His Son Jesus, and how He came to save us from our sins. He did not deny us, and now, even though we might have to spend our lives in jail, we will not deny Him."

His mother pleaded, "Ahmad, stop this foolish talk. You have your whole life ahead of you. Don't throw it away."

"I won't, Mother," Ahmad assured her. "Since I have learned about my Savior, I now have begun to live, and I realize it is not about me. There is something. . . Someone bigger. I will tell everyone I can about Him, whether it is at school, in town, or in jail."



Key Text: Choose one of the texts from Wednesday's portion of the lesson. Write it here and memorize it this week.

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Sunday
HERE'S WHAT I THINK

- >> Several churches in your community have donated food, money, and clothing to go overseas. Your youth group has been chosen to distribute these supplies in Afghanistan. The government says that while you are there you cannot talk about Christianity or Jesus. Some people think the trip should be cancelled. They feel it is not a mission trip if you cannot share Jesus.
- >> Do you think the trip should be cancelled? Why or why not? Can you have a mission trip without sharing Jesus? Would you still go and share Jesus even though the government told you not to?
- >> Log on to www.guidemagazine.org/rtf to post your responses. Be upfront and honest. Say what you think.

Monday
WHAT ARE THEY TRYING TO SAY?

Different people, different opinions. Some of the quotations below represent the views of true kingdom citizens; others may not. Can you tell the difference? How do these statements compare with what God is saying in His Word? After reviewing the texts in the God Says . . . portion of the lesson, write a statement that captures your belief. Be prepared to quote yourself at Sabbath School.

- >> "Every heart without Christ is a mission field; every heart with Christ is a missionary."—Dick Hillis, 20th-century U.S. missionary to Asia.
- >> "Missionaries are going to reform the world whether it wants to or not."—Oscar Wilde, 19th-century Irish writer.
- >> "I detest converts almost as much as I do missionaries."—H. L. Mencken, 20th-century U.S. editor.
- >> "Life becomes harder for us when we live for others, but it also becomes richer and happier."—Albert Schweitzer, 20th-century French theologian, physician and missionary.
- >> "How can I love Jesus/When I've never seen His face/Yeah, I see you dying/And I turn and walk away?"—Kirk Franklin in Lean on Me.
- >> "What are you doing, dear youth, to make known to others how important it is to take the word of God for a guide, to keep the commandments of Jehovah?"—Ellen White, 19th-century inspired author and church cofounder.

Write your own quotation.
What I say is . . .

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Tuesday
SO WHAT?

- >> In a world of “got to get mine” and “me first,” God calls for us to look a little farther. If we would take some time to get off the phone, change the channel, or get out of the mirror, we would see that there is a whole world out there. And many of its people do not know about Jesus and the joy He brings. This is true in faraway lands and right in your school and neighborhood.
- >> The problem is that the world is becoming increasingly hostile to Jesus’ “freaks.” It is just not cool to be a Christian. Furthermore, we could get in trouble with the law or our school for sharing our faith in certain situations. So why risk it?
- >> People desperately need to know about Jesus. And Jesus has asked us to tell them. (I’m not going to tell the King of the universe NO, are you?) It might not be the easiest, coolest, or even safest task, but we have to think beyond ourselves and do it. And when we do, God has promised to give us power, protection, and a prize.
- >> You could go on living life the way you have been, but it just won’t be as fun or fulfilling as living life the way God wants you to.
- >> God’s love can be shared in words and in more practical, tangible ways such as feeding the hungry or helping those who have fallen victim to natural disasters, war, and poverty. When we kick up our commitment to God a notch, He kicks up the power and allows us to see miracles that others only hear about during *mission story time*. When you decide to live beyond yourself, you decide to really live!



Thursday
WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH ME?

- >> Wanted: an adventurous, brave young person who will answer the call of the GOSpel, to GO! Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to go into the highways and byways, the halls and the malls, and share Jesus. You can share Him as you dare to be different and live a life pleasing to God. You can share Him as you tell others about Jesus when the subject comes up. You can share Him as you make it come up.
- >> This call to share is not just with your friends and neighbors, but it may take you to faraway, exotic and not so exotic places. Everybody needs to hear the gospel, and many need your help. There are so many people who have not been as blessed as you are. For some people, you will be the blessing. Giving of your time, your money, and your heart will be worth more to them than anything money can buy.
- >> It is not going to be easy, but God promises to send His Holy Spirit to give you the words to say. He promises that His love will take your fear away and His grace will make up whatever you lack. You just have to be bold enough to trust Him and crazy enough to obey Him! If you do, God will make it more than worth your while.



Wednesday
GOD SAYS . . .

- >> **Matthew 24:14 (NKJV)**
“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”
- >> **Romans 15:20 (NLT)**
“My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else.”
- >> **Colossians 4:5, 6 (NCV)**
“Be wise in the way you act with people who are not believers, making the most of every opportunity. When you talk, you should always be kind and pleasant so you will be able to answer everyone in the way you should.”
- >> **1 Peter 3:14 (NLT)**
“But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don’t be afraid and don’t worry.”
- >> **1 Chronicles 16:23, 24 (NLT)**
“Let the whole earth sing to the Lord! Each day proclaim the good news that he saves. Publish his glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does.”
- >> **1 Peter 4:16 (LB)**
“But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being in Christ’s family and being called by his wonderful name!”
- >> **1 Peter 5:10 (LB)**
“After you have suffered a little while, our God, who is full of kindness through Christ, will give you his eternal glory. He personally will come and pick you up, and set you firmly in place, and make you stronger than ever.”
- >> **2 Corinthians 4:8, 9 (KJV)**
“We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.”



Friday
HOW DOES IT WORK?

- >> It is time to get started with your mission work right now. Although there are some places you can’t reach on your feet, you can reach them on your knees. Take some time and write a prayer for a place where the people need the gospel. Pray for those who are being persecuted for their faith. Also, pray that God will show you how He wants you to work for Him.

